



UNIVERSITY  
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Ahmet Palazoglu  
Chair, Assembly of the  
Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative,  
UC Board of Regents  
Academic Senate

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December 15, 2025

Senate Division Chairs

Re: BOARS Statement on UC Mathematics (Area C) Admissions  
Requirements

Dear Colleagues:

I am forwarding the attached letter from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools ([BOARS](#)) confirming the University's mathematics (Area C) admission requirements. BOARS prepared this clarification in light of recent concerns about undergraduate students' math preparedness that were raised in a UC San Diego Senate-Administration Workgroup on Admissions [report](#) released in November 2025.

As the letter explains, UC's fundamental mathematics requirements have not changed in more than 16 years, and BOARS continues to affirm the foundational three-course sequence (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or the integrated Math I–II–III series) as the basis for UC admissions consideration, along with a recommended fourth year of advanced mathematics. BOARS also summarizes recent Senate and Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) statements that provide additional guidance on math preparation for college.

Please share this information with the appropriate Senate committees and faculty in your division.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu  
Chair, Academic Council

cc: BOARS  
Academic Council  
Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Yoon-Wu  
Senate Division Executive Directors  
Senate Executive Director Lin



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BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)

David Volz, Chair  
[david.volz@ucr.edu](mailto:david.volz@ucr.edu)

December 5, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu  
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Reaffirmation of BOARS' Position on UC's Mathematics (Area C)  
Admissions Requirements

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

On behalf of UC's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), I am writing to reaffirm BOARS' position on UC's mathematics (Area C) admissions requirements in light of math preparedness concerns raised within UC San Diego's (UCSD's) Senate-Administration Workgroup on Admissions [report](#) that was posted on UCSD's Academic Senate website on November 10, 2025. Within this report, UCSD concluded that "[b]etween 2020 and 2025, the number of students whose math skills fall below middle-school level increased nearly thirtyfold, reaching roughly one in eight members of the entering cohort" and that "[t]his deterioration coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on education, the elimination of standardized testing, grade inflation, and the expansion of admissions from under-resourced high schools." In short, the UC's mathematics admissions requirements have not changed for over 16 years. Below is a summary of UC's current Senate regulations that drive mathematics admissions requirements as well as recent Area C-specific statements issued by BOARS.

As stated within UC's Senate Regulation (SR) [424.A.3.c](#) (last amended in June 2009), students applying for freshman admission on the basis of a transcript of record from secondary schools in California must complete three year-long college preparatory courses that 1) have been approved by the UC at the applicant's high school and 2) include topics covered within elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry (i.e., the traditional three-course series of Algebra I-Geometry-Algebra II or integrated three-course series of Math I-II-III). SR 424.A.3.c also states that an additional year of mathematics is strongly recommended

beyond the foundational three-course series. Moreover, [SR 428](#) (last amended in June 2013) states that “[a]lternate ways to complete the subject requirements specified in SR 424.A.3 include...[c]ompleting more advanced courses with passing grades, as the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools may determine, provided that such courses assume knowledge acquired in lower-level coursework.” Nearly 100% of California residents that apply for first-year UC admission have completed the foundational three-course series, and more than 90% of admitted students have completed an additional year of statistics/data science (~10%, the majority of these students take statistics), advanced mathematics (e.g., precalculus or calculus) (~50%), or both statistics/data science and advanced mathematics (~30%).

Within the last two years, there have also been statements issued by BOARS and the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) that continue to 1) underscore the importance of completing the foundational three-course series to best prepare students for mathematics at the UC and California State University (CSU) systems and 2) provide guidance on the course content and characteristics of an additional recommended year of mathematics depending on the student’s educational goals and major of interest. In Fall 2023, BOARS convened a faculty-led Workgroup on Mathematics (Area C) Preparation (otherwise known as the “Area C Workgroup”, or ACW) that was charged with considering UC’s mathematics admissions requirements. The ACW published two consecutive reports in [February 2024](#) and [June 2024](#) that were 1) focused on the types of math courses that qualify as “advanced mathematics” for UC preparation and 2) UC’s definition of foundational mathematics for college preparation, respectively. Based on these two reports that were unanimously endorsed by BOARS, the ACW concluded that 1) no changes are needed to existing SR 424.A.3.c nor SR 428; 2) the required mathematics preparation for UC is the foundational three-course series (i.e., Algebra I-Geometry-Algebra II or integrated Math I-II-III); 3) for another course to validate a course in the foundational three-course series, it must require mastery of the content of the lower-level course that it aims to validate; and 4) an additional year of mathematics must build substantially on the content of the foundational three-course series.

In April 2025, ICAS released a [statement](#) that further articulated core mathematics competencies expected of entering college students – competencies that are directly aligned with UC’s expectations and include the foundational three-course series. Importantly, ICAS’ statement also provided more detailed guidance and recommendations for high school teachers, counselors, administrators, students, and families about an additional year of mathematics depending on the student’s intended meta-major (i.e., arts and humanities; behavioral and social sciences and multidisciplinary studies; business and economics; biological, medical, environmental, and life sciences; statistics and data sciences; or physics,

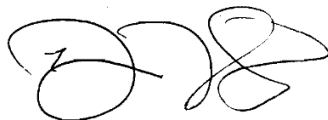
chemistry, engineering, mathematics, and computer sciences). In May 2025, BOARS formally [endorsed](#) ICAS' 2025 statement, as it was directly aligned with the ACW's 2024 [conclusions](#) and the UC's expectations per SR 424.A.3.c and SR 428.

In summary, the UC's mathematics admissions requirements have not changed for over 16 years even though BOARS and ICAS have, over the last couple of years, provided further clarification and guidance about courses that may satisfy the recommended additional year of mathematics. Therefore, math preparedness concerns for entering freshman raised within UCSD's Senate-Administration Workgroup on Admissions recent report appear to point to other factors that are unrelated to UC-wide mathematics admissions requirements driven by SR 424.A.3.c and SR 428. BOARS is committed to better understanding the variables that have led to an increase in the number of students with insufficient mathematics preparation at UCSD and possibly other undergraduate UC campuses.

BOARS will continue to work with the UC Office of the President and California State Board of Education to identify potential state-wide solutions to address this issue moving forward. BOARS is also committed to ensuring that 1) campus policies and practices are consistent with the [guiding principles of BOARS' comprehensive review policy](#) and 2) eligible California residents continue to have the opportunity to access a world-class education in alignment with the mission of the University of California.

Thank you for your assistance in disseminating this statement to all Divisions within the UC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Volz', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

David Volz  
Chair, BOARS

Cc: Susannah Scott, Academic Council Vice Chair  
Monica Lin, Academic Senate Executive Director